

Intensive Cultivation.

553 * MR. K. A. MATHEW: In view of the answer given at the second meeting of the last session of the Assembly (vide answer to question 119) that the increase in the annual production of rice in the State in 1119 as a result of intensive cultivation resorted to by Government was about 25,000 tons, will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether this intensive cultivation was done by the Agricultural Department or by private agriculturists;

(b) in what taluks was this done;

(c) whether any intensive cultivation was done in Tiruvella taluk;

(d) if so the increased quantity of paddy produced in that taluk in 1119 and 1120; and

(e) who were the agriculturists in Tiruvella taluk who did intensive cultivation?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (a) Intensive cultivation was done by private agriculturists on the advice of the Department of Agriculture.

(b) In all the taluks of the State except Peermade and Devicolum.

(c) Yes.

(d) The increased quantity of paddy produced in the Thiruvella taluk is not exactly known. The increase was roughly 80 tons in 1119 and 165 tons in 1120.

(e) A list* of some of the interested agriculturists in Thiruvella taluk who conducted intensive cultivation is appended.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: With reference to answer to part (d), may I know from the Government the basis of their calculating this increase in the Tiruvella Taluk? Where did the Government get the figures or manage to show this calculation?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I would invite the attention of the honourable member to Appendix I. There he will see a list of persons who purchased manure and utilised them.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Am I to take it that Government calculated the increase from the figures supplied by these gentlemen?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know what is the criterion or evidence that these people produced more than what they were producing before?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: These gentlemen purchased the manure and applied it in their fields on the advice of the Agricultural Department and gave the results to the department.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Does it mean that the Government collected the names of those persons who purchased the manure from the Government depots and came to this conclusion?

* Vide Appendix I. Page 129.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : These gentlemen purchased the manure from Government depots and other sources and the departmental officers went round and collected the information.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Thiruvella*) : May I know from the member whether any assistance or concession in any form was given by Government to the Agriculturists who did intensive cultivation in the Tiruvella taluk ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The honourable member knows that Ammonium Sulphate is given on a subsidised basis to the agriculturists.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Is that the only way in which the agriculturists are helped by the department ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : No instruction is given in regard to proper cultivation and to the method of application of manures.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know from the member whether the list in Appendix I contains some false names ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Sir, I repudiate that statement.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know whether there is a person known as Dr. T. K. Alexander, under the address Thalacode, Chengannur ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : That is the information that has been furnished by the officers of my department.

PRESIDENT : Does the honourable member say that there is not such a person ?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT : Will you examine that, Mr. Narayana Aiyar ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Yes, Sir.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Many of the persons whose names are included in this list are non-existent; some are not even agriculturists.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : I do not believe that.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : I know it because it relates to my taluk. The Director was not in order when he emphatically repudiated my statement.

PRESIDENT : I think that the charge levelled by Mr. Velayudhan Pillai is a very serious one. It is one of forgery. Names of persons who are non-existent or who are not agriculturists are included in the list.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Not all.

PRESIDENT : At least some. Those persons who supplied the information have no right to remain in the Department. The charge levelled is a very serious one. The Head of the Department can go only on the information supplied by his subordinates. The charge seems to be very strong and the Director will enquire into the matter completely.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I request the Director to investigate this aspect of the matter namely, that some of them are not agriculturists and they do not at all know what agriculture is.

PRESIDENT : The idea is that the Agricultural department has chosen some persons who are shown in the list and said that they cultivated the fields using the manure and showed the returns. The whole thing was in the air. So it is an act of forgery and a series of prosecutions will have to be started. The honourable member will investigate the matter and report to Government.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : May I know the percentage of increase as compared with the previous year?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : I have given the answer that about 25,000 tons will be the total approximate increase within the State. That is about 10 per cent increase.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : May I know the percentage of increase on the production?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Ten.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : May I point out that it is a very low percentage? Do the Government give substantial help to the agriculturists as promised, by way of giving manure on crop loans? If they had done like that, the increase would have been substantially greater than 10 per cent.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : "Had he been given more could he not have produced more?" is not a direct question, Sir.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : May I know what substantial help is being given by the Department?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The Department has supplied manure worth about 4 to 5 lakhs of rupees which it was able to secure only after bringing to bear great amount of pressure on the Government of India. Large quantities of manure have been given to the cultivators.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : May I have a list tomorrow?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Yes, Sir, I will try to collect the information.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : In view of the errors pointed out in the list.....

PRESIDENT : Order, order. They have not been pointed out.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : I mean, if they are real, the quantities cannot be taken as final.

PRESIDENT : Obviously if all or some of the names are imaginary the figures cannot be correct so that you can take it only as provisional. At present there is an allegation from Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai. And there is again an allegation from the Director. It is that some of the persons are imaginary. Imaginary persons cannot produce crops.

There is no use of giving manure to imaginary persons for the purpose of raising crops on imaginary lands. Unless we know something more about the matter it is not possible to come to a definite decision.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE : May I know whether Government have suffered any loss on account of this manure?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Yes, Sir. The Government are selling manure at a loss. This is the meaning of the words "selling at a subsidised price."

MR. K. A. MATHEW : May I know whether the Government have prohibited the import of ground-nut cakes into the State for a time?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : No Sir. They only restricted the import.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : What is the meaning of that?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The Department of Agriculture wanted to keep track of the imports just to find out whether any blackmarketing in respect of manure was developing.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Is the honourable member aware that the people were then finding it difficult to get cakes?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : No Sir.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : May I know whether the control imposed was to push up the price of the manure?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : No Sir.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Then what is the object?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The import was only being restricted. The Government wanted to know who imported the cakes and what was being done with them?

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : What is the purpose of restriction? Was it to avoid blackmarketing? May I know whether selling in the blackmarket is selling at cheaper rate than the Government?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The honourable member is mistaken.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : What is it that Government wanted to do? Do they want to avoid competition?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The idea is to give manures at as low a rate as possible.

PRESIDENT : Order, order. The question is perfectly obvious. The Government do not grow this commodity here. Government procure it from outside and they are selling it at a concessional rate to the ryots. When it was found that people were merely, for the purpose of preventing Government conducting this transaction, importing so as to prevent Government going on with it, the restriction was imposed. As soon as Government make up its mind not to restrict import then they would sell it at their own rate. It was for this restriction was placed.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : So the Government were not in a position to stand competition with the merchants—is that the suggestion?

PRESIDENT: That question need not be answered.

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR (*Changanacherry cum Peermade*): May I know whether any lands have been leased out in Peermade taluk?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I want elucidation on one point. May I know whether the help alleged to have been given is generally availed of by the Travancore people?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Is it being availed of by persons in all parts of the State?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir. In fact, we are not in a position to meet all demands.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Then how is it that it is stated that the help is availed of in general?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Because, whatever is available is taken by the people in time.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the help is being availed of in my constituency?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I suppose so.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether any attempt has been made to popularise it in my constituency?

PRESIDENT: I trust that the honourable member is trying to popularise it as well.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Certainly.

Taluk Committee, Karunagapally.

554 *MR R. MADHAVAN NAIR (*Karunagapally cum Karthikapally*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a taluk committee functioning in the Karunagapally Taluk in connection with the distribution of food grains, kerosene and sugar;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether they will state the names of the members of the committee and the fixed interval at which the committee is expected to meet;

(c) the number of meetings with their respective dates summoned after the advent of the present Tahsildar to Karunagapally;

(d) whether the Tahsildar is conducting the distribution of food grains, sugar and kerosene oil in consultation with and in accordance with the advice of the Committee;

(e) whether it is a fact that no meeting has been summoned within the last ten months;

(f) whether the Government or the District Magistrate, Quilon, has prescribed any uniform method of procedure in the distribution of kerosene oil;

(g) if the answer to (f) above is in the affirmative whether it is followed in the Karunagapally Taluk;

Appendix I.

Vide Answer to Question No. 553.

List of persons who conducted intensive cultivation
in Thiruvella taluk.

Name and address of persons.

1. Mr. V. T. Eapen, Vadakkedathu House, Chengannur.
2. „ C. Thomas, Vakil, Chengannur.
3. „ K. K. George, Kizhuveetil, Chengannur.
4. Mrs. Kocheepan Mapillai, Kandathil, Thiruvella.
5. Mr. K. Mathulla, B. A., Hill Bungalow, Kuttur, Thiruvella.
6. „ K. E. Chacko, Kollamparambil, Chengannur.
7. „ K. C. George, Plakeelil, Vallamkulam, Thiruvella.
8. Members of the Karshaka Sangham, Chiruviambu, Thiruvella.
9. Mr. P. V. George, Kuttapuzha, Kaviyoor, Thiruvella.
10. „ Ninan Kovoor Brothers, Thiruvella.
11. „ C. M. Abraham, Vakil, Chengannur.
12. „ Varughese Malayampallil, Pulikkezhu, Thiruvella.
13. „ K. O. Ninan, Kuloomadathu, Vennikulam, do.
14. „ T. N. Kuruvilla, Theepani, Eraviperoor do.
15. „ Varghese, Mecheril, Chiraviambu do.
16. „ P. T. Thomas, Pulimootil, Pamala do.
17. „ G. T. Kurien, Kodiatta, Theepani do.
18. „ T. G. Kurian, Thekkeveetil, Chengannur.
19. Dr. T. K. Alexander, Thalacodu, Chengannur.
20. Mr. M. O. Iype, Eraviperoor, Thiruvella.
21. „ Jacob Koshi, Mezhuvelil, Eraviperoor, Thiruvella.
22. „ C. M. Abraham, Advocate, Chengannur.
23. „ P. K. Chacko, Purakal, Tholassery, Thiruvella.
24. „ T. P. Mathew, Thazhathumalayil, Chirayirambu, Thiruvella.
25. „ Padmanabha Pillai, Mangath, Kavumbhagom, Thiruvella.